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Volume 48 Issue 14 | March 25, 2011 | [www.ualberta.ca/folio](http://www.ualberta.ca/folio)

## Armour part of UN delegation on status of women

Michael Brown

Margaret-Ann Armour, University of Alberta associate dean of science (diversity) and champion of women in science, engineering and technology, was the only academic named to the Canadian delegation that attended the 55th session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations headquarters in New York earlier this year. The commission brings together representatives of member states to evaluate progress on gender equality while identifying challenges, setting global standards and formulating concrete policies to promote gender equality and advancement of women worldwide.

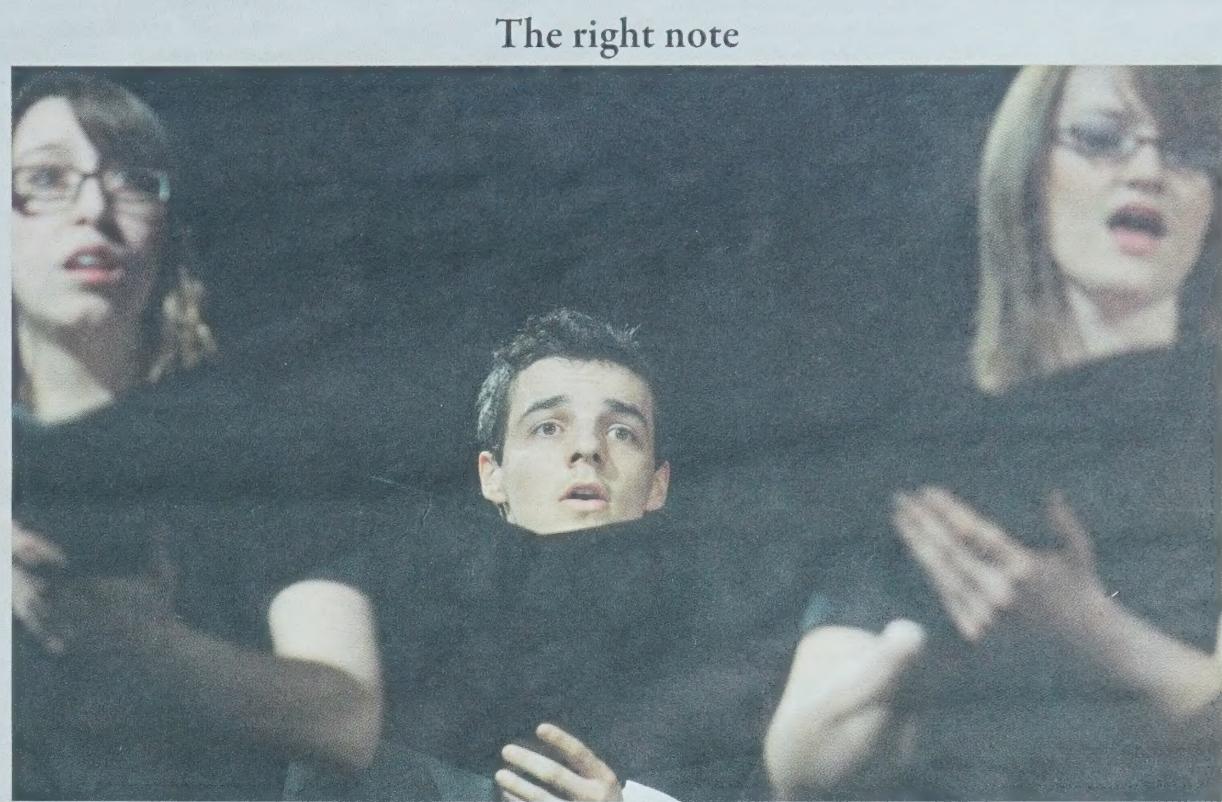


Margaret-Ann Armour

The meeting of the commission, held over 10 days starting Feb. 22, discussed such themes as access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including promoting of women's equal access to full employment and decent work, and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against the girl child.

"Our government is very keen in having more initiatives in encouraging women and girls in science and technology, and then into leadership positions," said Armour, president of the Canadian Centre for Women in Science, Engineering, Trades and Technology, or WinSETT Centre. "Canada is past the stage where we have to worry about education of women and girls; for me, what was an amazing experience was listening to a number of developing countries talking about what they were going to do in a public forum."

*Continued on page 3*



Richard Siemens

The Augustana Choir performed at the Myer Horowitz Theatre March 22 as part of the Celebration of Research and Innovation.

## The right note

## Babiuk named as VP (research) for a second term

Michael Brown

The University of Alberta's Board of Governors has reappointed Lorne Babiuk as vice-president (research) for a second five-year term, effective July 1, 2012.

"I feel very blessed with being part of what I consider to be one of the best administrative teams in the country," said Babiuk. "I think that I have been able to achieve some important things in my first term and I would like to complete them and also start some new things."

Babiuk joined the U of A in July 2007 as vice-president (research), and in that role has been instrumental in leading the university in a number of new initiatives. Some of Babiuk's successes include: guiding the Canada Excellence Research Chairs applications, which resulted in four new chairs (out of 19 nationwide), each worth \$10 million over seven years; increasing the funding available

for the President's Grants for the Creative and Performing Arts from the Killam Research Fund; the launch of the Helmholtz-Alberta Initiative, a major research partnership between the U of A and German researchers to work on mutual areas of interest such as energy and the environment; and the Li Ka Shing Institute of Virology, a cutting-edge research centre housing some of the very best researchers in the field.

"With his experience as a top international researcher, Lorne has made a significant impact on our research culture during his time as vice-president (research)," said President Indira Samarasekera, who points to Babiuk's role in helping the U of A accrue \$507.6 million in annual research funding, the second highest total among all universities in Canada. "He has been instrumental in advancing the U of A's national and international reputation as one of Canada's leading research universities."



Lorne Babiuk

Babiuk, whose duties as vice-president (research) also include chair of the board of directors for TEC Edmonton, counts the university's progress on technology commercialization with TEC Edmonton as a major achievement. Other notable achievements include: the establishment of the annual SSHRC lecture and celebration of SSHRC activities; the feedback provided by the 2010 Tri-Council monitoring review of the university's research administration practices; the role his office has played in improving the services it provides to researchers, and in nurturing a culture of research celebration.

"Our office has been working hard to encourage people to nominate their colleagues for awards, to develop a system where we are actually helping review awards before they are submitted, and to help celebrate the research awards in a number of ways, including hosting our annual Celebration of Research and Innovation," said Babiuk. "Research has become more a state of mind in a sense that we should be continually acknowledging our colleagues for how good they are."

Looking ahead, Babiuk noted that

a goal of the new Academic Plan, *Dare to Deliver: 2011-2015*, is to expand linkages among all faculties as they address large societal issues. Babiuk looks forward to having faculties identify their areas for development and then working with them to facilitate these aspirations.

"For example, water has been identified by the university as an important initiative," said Babiuk. "We have a large number of people working on water, but my goal is to begin to combine the intellectual power of various faculties to be able to make a significant impact in the area of water." For example, the Faculty of Arts is holding a major conference on water this year, which may be an opportunity to build a large, interdisciplinary water institute at the U of A.

"With water, for instance, you can look at the politics surrounding it; you can also look at the social-economic, cultural, legal and educational aspects of water. It is my desire that faculties identify areas in which they want to build leading research initiatives, and the Vice-President (Research) Office is here to assist them in doing so."



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# folio

## Volume 48 Issue 14

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## U of A's first Comprehensive Institutional Plan approved

Folio staff

**A** new document that outlines the University of Alberta's short- and long-term plans, goals and resource needs was approved by the university's board of governors March 18.

The U of A's first Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP) replaces previous documents reviewed or approved by various governance committees including the Access Plan, Institutional Research Plan, University Plan, Capital Plan and Budget.

This year, the province's Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology asked Alberta's post-secondary institutions to produce a Comprehensive Institutional Plan that incorporates elements of those previous documents into one comprehensive document.

The CIP was written in support of the university's vision and mission as outlined in *Dare to Discover* and the academic plan, *Dare to Deliver*. The document points out that the university plays a critical role in contributing to the economic growth and diversification of the province, and states that more graduate students and highly educated graduates are necessary if the province is to compete in the global economy.

And, although the CIP was produced at a time of limited provincial resources, the university warns that, without enhanced and ongoing investment, the U of A will lose the competitive gains made in the early 2000s and begin to falter and inevitably fail to meet society's needs.

"The U of A must receive annual

operating grant increases of at least four per cent beginning as soon as possible in order to maintain the high quality established through investment over the past decade—and we request a commitment of three years to assist in planning," the CIP states, while reaffirming the university's significant impact on the regional economy as the fourth largest employer in the province.

**The [Comprehensive Institutional Plan] points out that the university plays a critical role in contributing to the economic growth and diversification of the province, and states that more graduate students and highly educated graduates are necessary if the province is to compete in the global economy.**

The measures planned by the university align with the four cornerstones contained in *Dare to Discover*: talented people; learning, discovery and citizenship; connecting communities, and transformative organization and support.

Some of the academic highlights include stressing the urgency of increasing participation in post-secondary education for Albertans, the need to increase access and engagement for Aboriginal and rural students and a need to increase the number of international students.

The document also makes a funding request for 500 additional professors, along with the resources to support them, and says the university strives for ratios of 1:3 graduate to undergraduate students, 1:4 professor to graduate and 1:16 professor to general population, while focusing on the broad themes of quality, learning environment, student experience and engagement, innovative programming, connections and collaborations.

Research emphasis is placed on having an internationally recognized, public research/teaching university that has recognizable impact and excellence in a diverse set of areas across the entire academy with three broad goals across the themes of diversification of excellence and internationalization. The document highlights a need for \$22 million in base dollars to replace the research capacity associated with the AHFMR transition at the U of A and states that the university will globalize research activities by leveraging and extending its international consortia.

In reference to the 2011–2012 budget year, the document states that the university is projecting a modest excess of revenue over expenses of \$1.9 million in its consolidated budget and an operating budget deficit of \$4.9 million. In last year's budget, the university took steps to minimize the effects of a zero per cent increase on its base operating grant through initiatives to enhance program revenues, slow the rate of expenditures, and achieve administrative efficiencies. The cumulative effect of consecutive zero per cent funding increases to the operating grant has already resulted in substantial budget reductions and reallocations. The CIP

## Researchers up to WUN's Global Challenge

Michael Davies-Venn

**R**esearchers from the University of Alberta have won awards from an international research organization that will enable them to work with colleagues around the globe to address issues with global ramifications.



Ian Mann

Proposals by U of A professors Ian Mann and Nora Keating have been granted funding by Worldwide Universities Network as part of the network's Global Challenge. With a long tradition of excellence understanding the dynamics of outer space around the Earth, Mann and his U of A colleagues are teaming up with experts from the United Kingdom and Norway to determine the impact of space radiation on climate change.

"There's a strong human impact on climate change, and carbon dioxide is certainly the major contributor," Mann said. "Nonetheless, we know that there are other processes that can cause some smaller changes to the climatic system.

"One of the things we are interested in is trying to understand what impact space radiation might have on the much lower altitude regions of space—the neutral atmosphere—and whether it can even have some role in some climate processes in changing some of the atmospheric dynamics."

According to Mann, at the beginning of the space race more than a half century ago, an accidental discovery

revealed that near-Earth space is filled with highly relativistic radiation. This radiation, which forms the so-called Van Allen radiation belts, can be scattered into the Earth's atmosphere, but no one knows what role this radiation may play in influencing climate change.

Mann cautions that any outcome would not do away with the explanation of the contribution of carbon dioxide on global warming, partly because his focus is on higher altitudes, or a layer of the atmosphere 60–100 kilometres above ground.

However, because there is a complex relationship between different layers of the atmosphere involving changes to chemistry and energy transfer, he says it's important to determine the impact of space radiation on the atmosphere.

"It is possible that current global climate systems are not capturing the impact of space radiation," said Mann. "If the global-climate models are to do a good job in predicting what goes on in the atmospheric system, then the elements that are used in making those predictions have to be very well described. The objective is to try to improve that system and make sure that the dynamics of the coupled atmospheric system are represented in the most realistic way possible."

Nora Keating, U of A human ecology researcher, won an award for a proposal that address the world's rising life expectancy.

"In Japan, 20 per cent of the population is over age 65, and that number is going up quickly," said Keating. "In places like China, much of sub-Saharan Africa and parts of South America, the proportion of old people is quite low, but in absolute terms, the numbers are immense."

Keating will use her award to launch the Global Social Initiative on Aging, which is designed to bring the world's leading experts on aging to the U of A to address some of the key welfare issues of older people.

"First we want to discuss and identify the main social issues affecting older people across the world," said Keating. "Then we want to figure out how to

get into the attention of organizations such as the United Nations with this information. We want to change things so that the lives of older people are better. We have big goals. This is not just an academic undertaking."

The WUN is a global alliance of 16 research-intensive universities drawn from the U.K., Europe, North America, China and Australia. Central to WUN's mission is the fostering of international collaborative research. In particular, WUN is committed to the development of interdisciplinary research collaborations addressing recognizable global challenges. ■

outlines that further budget adjustments will be required in 2011–12.

The content of the Capital Plan section of the CIP states that, over the past decade, the university has been able to accomplish a great deal thanks to significant funding, including for the Li Ka Shing Institute of Virology, the Katz Group Centre for Pharmacy and Health, the Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science and the Edmonton Clinic Health Academy. It also says that deferred maintenance is now \$987 million, and that, in this climate, focus will be on repurposing and renewal needs, while continuing to seek envelope funding for preliminary planning of critical projects so we can begin construction as soon as the resources are available. ■

## University responds to the federal budget

Folio staff

**U**niversity of Alberta President Indira Samarasekera says the federal budget announced March 22 is good news for Canada's post-secondary institutions and sends a clear signal that the government is keeping its eye on the strategic goal of building a healthy and globally competitive economy with a strong focus on innovation.

Samarasekera says the budget does three key things for post-secondary by reaffirming the government's commitment to talent, research and internationalization.

"This budget maintains momentum, particularly through an increase in funding to the three granting councils. Secondly, the budget builds excellence—as demonstrated by an additional 10 Canada Excellence Research Chairs. And with this budget, the government is supporting the goal of reaching the world, of promoting Canada's international brand to both attract the very best students to this country and to send our students abroad for international experience—this is particularly evident in the budget's allocation of \$12 million for a competition to select a Canada-India Research Centre of Excellence."

Highlights of the budget include \$37 million in new funding per year to support the three federal research granting councils, an additional \$10 million per year for the Indirect Costs of Research program, an investment of \$53.5 million over five years to support the creation of 10 new Canada Excellence Research Chairs, an additional \$35 million over five years to the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada to support climate and atmospheric research, \$60 million over three years to promote increased student enrolment in key disciplines related to the digital economy and \$10 million over two years to develop and implement an international education strategy to help attract world-class talent. ■

## Process review task force looking for input

Michael Brown

A task force in search of University of Alberta administrative and operational processes that are overly cumbersome or inefficient has been struck and is looking for input.

The Administrative Innovation and Process Review task force, an initiative of the vice-president (finance and administration), is building on the work of previous initiatives that turned a critical eye inwards on university operations and administration in an effort to streamline activities.

"We want to examine new, efficient ways to reduce administrative burden wherever possible," said Mary Persson, associate vice-president (audit and analysis) and task force co-chair.

Persson says the task force will focus on areas that will optimize the operational efficiency of a unit or process, enhance customer service, present new opportunities for cost containment and create opportunities for revenue enhancement.

"The ultimate goal of this review is to look for ways to manage the operations of the U of A better and more efficiently," she said. "Whether big or small, we are hoping to find innovative ideas that can help transform our administrative processes."

For example, the idea for moving the U of A to a centralized, web-based email system came out of a previous review, as did strategic sourcing for suppliers to save money and bringing general council in-house to save on legal fees.

"We want to help reduce the often heavy administrative burden on faculty and staff so that people can spend more time on their primary responsibilities," she said.

Individuals can submit ideas through the task force website at [www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/vpfin/finance/taskforce.cfm](http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/vpfin/finance/taskforce.cfm), or via email at [admin.ideas@ualberta.ca](mailto:admin.ideas@ualberta.ca).

## Vested communities the aim of new restorative justice policy

Michael Brown

**S**tarting next September, the University of Alberta will have a new policy to help create a better sense of community across its campuses' residences.

The Office of the Dean of Students, the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Residence Services are rolling out a new Residence Community Standards policy that will introduce a restorative justice model as the primary means of managing residence behaviour, which could include common community issues like excessive noise, cleaning concerns, property damage or drunkenness, although the policy will preclude safety issues that need immediate attention.

"A lot of universities are thinking of going in the direction of restorative justice, but not a lot have so far in Canada," said Deborah Eerkes, director of the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. "We're kind of on

the beginning of this big trend."

In spring 2009, Eerkes was assigned the task of reviewing the discipline system in Residence Services and rewriting the Community Standards. She says the review was sparked by a number of long-standing issues, primarily but not exclusively related to ongoing behavioural issues in residence.

"Part of the problem was that the old policy was unwieldy and getting more and more difficult to administer," said Eerkes. "It didn't seem to be improving things all that much—we still have people continuing to repeat offend."

Eerkes says research shows that rates of recidivism go down in restorative justice programs because the accused doesn't regard that behaviour as just the breaking of a rule, but, rather, a harming of the community.

She explains that within a restorative justice model, the harmed party, or parties, and the offender, or offend-

ers, meet in a mediated setting to decide what the harm is and how the damage can be repaired to everyone's satisfaction.

"You can't always back the clock up, but you can take steps towards mending the harm done," said Eerkes. "This is a real departure from the way we do things now, where the person harmed gets no say whatsoever."

More than simply enforcing the rules, however, Eerkes says the hope here is also that a new policy will create an environment where people are more invested in their own community and understand the consequences of their actions on others.

"This policy is such a change in mindset," said Eerkes. "Communicating the new process and making sure students get it and want to participate—because it is an opt-in system—is going to be a huge task."

She adds that training staff and facilitators who mediate situations

**"You can't always back the clock up, but you can take steps towards mending the harm done."**

Deborah Eerkes

is another big task between now and Sept. 1, when the policy goes into effect. To help with the transition, Eerkes says an implementation committee already struck will be joined by a review committee in order to help iron out difficulties after both the first and second years of the program.

"We hope this policy empowers residents to engage in community building and conflict resolution through the restorative process, and allows Residence Life staff to focus on the positive rather than simply enforcing rules," said Eerkes.

## Kidney removal in cancer patients linked to poorer health

Raquel Maurer

**P**atients with kidney cancer who had their entire organ removed are more likely to have more renal complications and poorer health after surgery, compared to those who had only part of their kidney removed, a University of Alberta study has shown.

Ronald Moore, a professor in the Department of Surgery in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, is a senior scholar funded by Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions and is holder of the Mr. Lube Chair in Uro-Oncology; he, Scott Klarenbach, an Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions investigator and ne-

phrology professor, and Branko Braam, a nephrology professor and a Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada new investigator, studied 1,151 kidney cancer cases in Alberta.

The researchers, who were also supported by the Alberta Health Services Northern Alberta Renal Program, reviewed patient outcomes from 2002 to 2007 via a provincial database.

They found that 80 per cent of patients underwent surgery to have their entire kidney removed as a way to treat their kidney cancer.

Furthermore, patients who had their entire kidney removed were more likely to develop chronic kidney disease and kidney failure (requiring treatment

with dialysis), both of which are serious, chronic medical disorders. Less than three years post-surgery, the number of patients who had renal complications was 12.5 per cent for those who had their whole kidney removed, compared to seven per cent for those who only underwent partial kidney removal. This is an important difference in outcomes noted in their research results which were recently published in the *European Journal of Oncology*.

What is troubling, says the team, is that only 20 per cent of kidney cancer patients in Alberta and across North

America are undergoing partial kidney removal surgery when they are diagnosed early. That number needs to be much higher, especially in light of these findings that build on previous research.

"It is important for patients and health-care providers in Alberta and Canada to know this information, so patients can live longer post-surgery and have a better quality of life with fewer health complications," says Moore. "There could also be overall health-care cost savings because patients wouldn't have as many complications afterwards."

### Armour at the UN

Rona Ambrose, federal minister of state for [the] status of women, headed the delegation made up of federal and provincial government representatives as well as leaders of non-governmental organizations.

Canada has participated in the UNCSW since its creation in 1947, and is a key leader in the work of advancing gender equality. Along with the priority themes, Armour, who says her highlight of the week came when she was asked to address the member states on behalf of Canada, said the Canadian delegation took the op-

*continued from page 1*  
portunity to highlight the need to end all forms of violence against women and girls, including honour-motivated violence.

"The fact that [countries with gender inequality] were talking about equality in a public forum with all the other countries listening, I thought was very encouraging," said Armour, adding she knows implementation is easier said than done. "Many countries are still trying to provide even elementary education for girls in rural areas where there are no schools, so it was a good start."

## Mapping the Landscapes of Childhood

CONFERENCE

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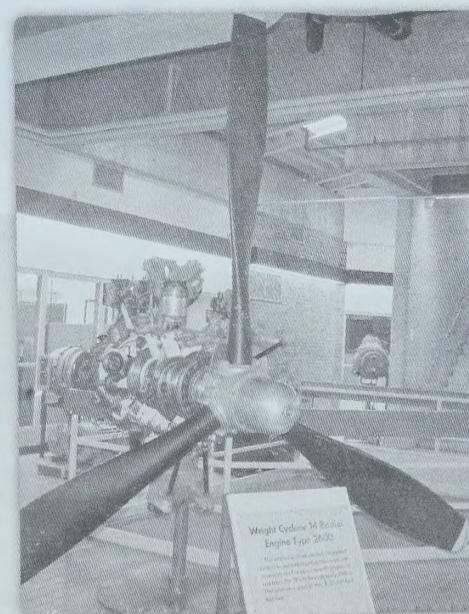
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## Are You a Winner?

Congratulations to Heather Green, whose name was drawn as part of folio's March 11 "Are You a Winner?" contest. Green correctly identified the photo in question as an ornament found atop Pembina Hall. For her correct answer, Green has won a copy of "City of Love & Revolution: Vancouver in the Sixties," by U of A history professor Lawrence Aronsen.

Up for grabs this week is a University of Alberta-issued stainless-steel coffee mug, as well as a U of A-embazoned bookmark. To win, simply email your correct answer to folio@exr.ualberta.ca by noon on Friday, April 1, and you will be entered into the draw.





Cait Willis

View atop Windsor Park Parkade.

## Fairness and integrity lie at the heart of the university's judicial branch

The University of Alberta can be a complicated entity with many moving parts. University 101 exists to assist the campus community in better understanding who does what and how things get done at the U of A. This week's feature on the university's judicial branch is the first in a two-part series.

Michael Brown

The University of Alberta's judiciary exists to ensure that fairness and integrity prevails in all disputes.

Where students are concerned, the Post-Secondary Learning Act gives the General Faculties Council responsibility over academic affairs and general supervision of student affairs, including authority concerning student discipline.

Thus, the GFC has developed the Code of Student Behaviour to guide the university in dealing with both academic and non-academic offences.

For students whose grievance is in regard to academic standing—such as a conflict with a grade, expulsion from their program or denial of graduation or promotion, their appeal does not fall under the Code of Student Behaviour, but—like other academic issues—allows for the first right of appeal at the faculty level.

with final level of appeal to the General Faculties Council's Academic Appeals Committee.

The process for determining disciplinary measures in academic offences, including plagiarism, cheating, misuse of confidential materials and research and scholarship misconduct, begins at the faculty level.

The dean is charged with discipline, but typically delegates that duty to an associated dean who will hear the case and decide on it.

"The severity of the sanctions imposed determines how the case moves through the system," said Chris Hackett, discipline officer with the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. "The dean of the faculty can impose under their own authority a sanction up to and including outright failure of a course and a notation on the student's transcript indicating that the grade was set for disciplinary reasons."

Hackett says that, if a faculty feels the transgression in question is worthy of one of the severe sanctions—such as suspension, expulsion or rescission of the degree, to name a few—the decision moves to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.

"We never actually vary decisions made by the faculty," said Hackett. "In academic misconduct cases, we make the decision on the severe sanc-

tion only. If we find—on balance of probabilities—that the student did not commit the offence, only then would we dismiss the charge and thus, the sanctions imposed by the dean."

Non-academic offences are subject to a similar process, except the investigating party is U of A Protective Services, which recommends what it believes to be a fitting disciplinary action.

Regardless of the severity of the offence that contravened the Code of Student Behaviour, and whether it falls under the academic or non-academic process, if the student disagrees with the outcome, they have a last right of appeal with the University Appeal Board. The UAB is a committee constituted by GFC that hears appeals of discipline decisions made by both the faculties and OSJA.

In appealing a charge of academic misconduct, if the decision is within the faculty's parameters and is not referred for a severe sanction, the appeal skips past the OSJA and goes straight to the appeal board.

However, if the appeal pertains to a severe sanction, and if the student's case has gone through the OSJA and has been upheld, their case will be heard by the UAB. These committees that sit in judgment of academic

offences are made up of a faculty member who serves as chair, and two student members.

"The University Appeals Board has pretty broad powers and can determine if an offence has been committed and then vary, confirm or quash the original decision," said Iva Spence, the UAB appeals coordinator. She says that in addition to hearing cases under the Code of Student Behaviour, the UAB also hears appeals from applicants who are thought to have, for instance, misrepresented facts in an application to the Office of the Registrar and have been charged under the Code of Applicant Behaviour.

"The purpose of this process is to make sure students have a final right of appeal within the university," said Spence. "That goes for any decision made as far as academic standing, disciplinary matters or interventions

## University 101

in practicum placements."

Students in professional faculties overseeing students who have been denied placement in a program or a practicum, or have been removed from a placement, have a right to appeal to the Faculty Practice Review Committee. If they're not satisfied with the decision, Spence says they can appeal to the GFC Practice Review Board, which is made up of five members: two faculty, one practitioner and two students.

"At the last level of appeal at the university, we really want to make sure we're following to the letter of the law of our own policies and procedures, and that we are being fair to both parties in terms of how the hearing is conducted and the way the information is brought forward," said Spence. ■

**Iva Spence**

**The purpose of this process is to make sure students have a final right of appeal within the university. That goes for any decision made as far as academic standing, disciplinary matters or interventions in practicum placements."**

## Spring ushers in new academic plan

Carl Amrhein, provost and VP (academic) & Lorne Babiuk, VP (research)

On March 21 members of General Faculties Council approved *Dare to Deliver 2011–2015*, the University of Alberta's Academic Plan.

Receiving a strong endorsement from representatives of the academic professional officers, the Students' Union and the Graduate Students Association, *Dare to Deliver* passed with near-unanimous support (86 in favour, two abstentions, one opposed). The academic plan is the academy's response to the vision set out in *Dare to Discover*, and thus articulates the academic goals and aspirations for the U of A over the next four years. Building on four cornerstones—talented people, learning, discovery and citizenship, connecting communities and transformational organization and support—*Dare to Deliver* will "allow us to refocus on and consolidate our core strengths in teaching and research,

reinvigorating our commitment to delivering the kind of extraordinary student experience associated with a great university."

Over the past year, the academic plan went through many drafts and iterations. We received an enormous amount of feedback and advice from a wide array of individuals, representing the entire campus community. This has truly been a team effort, and we would like to thank everyone who committed their time, energy and effort in making the academic plan a reality. Once again, the campus community has illustrated that talented, committed people are the driving force behind the University of Alberta's success as a post-secondary institution.

A complete version of the entire academic plan can be found at the provost's website at <https://provost.sitecore.ualberta.ca/~media/University%20of%20Alberta/Administration/Office%20of%20the%20Vice-Provost/Provost/Documents/Academic%20Plan/AcademicPlan.pdf>. ■

## Clearing up some myths about philanthropy

O'Neil Outar, chief development officer

I recently celebrated my six-month anniversary at the University of Alberta. The experience of adjusting to Canada, Edmonton and the university has been intense but immensely fun.

I spent much of the first semester speaking with students, faculty, administrators, alumni and members of the community to hear perspectives on the university and ideas on philanthropy and fundraising. Along the way I heard a few common myths that I hope to clarify. In no particular order:

**Myth:** Canadians are not as charitable as Americans.

**Truth:** According to the Charities Aid Foundation World Giving Index 2010,

Canada ranks third, three places ahead of the United States. Although the U.S. market is larger (after adjustment for population size), a higher percentage of Canadians make gifts to charities and have given their time.

**Myth:** People are more likely to give to organizations.

**Truth:** Regardless of whether the donor is an organization (industry or foundation) or an individual, people give to people. For this reason, it is important to cultivate personal relationships with those who have or control wealth.

While organizations may publicly have a defined pool of funds for particular projects, building personal relationships can often be very helpful in advancing projects outside of the traditional scope of funding.

## the open door

**Myth:** The most important quality of a fundraiser is being a "people" person.

**Truth:** My experience of those who are successful fundraisers is that they are active listeners, intellectually curious, well-read, have a high level of energy and are themselves interesting.

**Myth:** Money goes to the area of greatest need.

**Truth:** Like most of us, donors of all kinds are attracted to leaders who have their confidence.

The people and programs that are best able to clearly articulate the potential impact of the work and to describe the potential impact of the donor's gift often earn the donor's respect, support and, perhaps most important, their advocacy.

**Myth:** The donor is always right.

**Truth:** Sometimes. Donors are problem solvers. But they may come to the conversation with a particular set of biases or one perspective on the problem and appreciate hearing alternative views, engaging in debate and understanding how their gifts will be used to solve the problem they are passionate about. Donors are reassured to be investing in someone with whom they have a shared interest.

Some people say that one's life can be broken down into three parts: learning, earning and returning, with the latter being the phase in which the most significant gifts are made. ■

# Teaching the language of math

Richard Cairney

If teaching a subject well requires that you love to teach and are fascinated with the subject you're teaching, Karen Dow Ambtman has a lot going for her in her civil engineering analysis class.

The course teaches engineering students how to use math to describe an event, like a steel beam buckling under pressure, or contaminants leaking into a river, over time and space.

"We take a physical problem and describe it mathematically so we can solve it, understanding what the equation physically means—but solving it and understanding it are two different things," said Dow Ambtman, who opened her classroom doors to professors from across campus as part of the university's Festival of Teaching.

One teaching habit Dow Ambtman employs is simple: she draws pictures. In a class introducing partial differential equations, she draws a steel column buckling, alongside an equation used to describe it.

"So—what does it look like?" she asks the class. "What does this thing look like?"

"I draw a lot of pictures," she laughs. "I try to draw as much as possible, or to bring in props. Math is like a language, but engineers are physical people, so if you can show them what a buckling column looks like, what shape these things take, it's helpful."

Later in the course, she will actually have her students do the wave in the lecture theatre as a demonstration of how events cover time and space.

## U of A students embrace Go Google

Ileiren Poon

University of Alberta students were invited to "Go Google," as the university adopted the Google Apps for Education suite March 21, and go they did.

By press time, more than 11,000 students had made the switch.

"We are very happy with the rate at which students are adopting uAlberta Google Apps," said Simon Collier, one of the project leads. "In three days about one third of all students have made the switch."

The process has also made the U of A's 15 Google migration servers among the top-20 busiest machines on campus in terms of Internet traffic, out of more than 25,000 Internet connected devices on campus.

"This is a huge project that we need to roll out in a staged fashion. Step one is get all the students switched over correctly," said Jonathan Schaeffer, the university's vice-provost (information technology). "Students are Internet savvy; they're leading edge. In many ways, today's students are driving change."

More than 38,000 students—graduate and undergraduate—are the first to have the new suite available to them.

The U of A announced in December 2010 that it came to an agreement with Google to provide the university's faculty, staff and students the use of the free education edition of Google Apps. The agreement means the university community will begin using Google mail, calendaring, document preparation and other tools.

"Most students are already living and working in a mobile, web-enabled world," added Schaeffer. "Nearly all carry a cell phone and within the next five years almost all will carry a smart phone."

Those students will benefit from the switch, said Joshua LaForge, a fourth-year PhD student in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, who was part of the Google project's beta testing group.

"I think if you're a student who mainly uses the webmail interface or is doing a lot of communication from a mobile device, there's a huge benefit to this new system," he said. "The

she admits the exercise looked better when she had more students in the classroom—but at her request the department agreed to split the class in two because Dow Ambtman feels that, with subject matter this fundamental and complex, it is important that she have a good connection with students—that she can look around the class and read the faces of her students while she explains new concepts.

Her students attest to Dow Ambtman's teaching skills.

"This is one of the best attended classes we have," said Shauna Lesniewski, a third-year civil engineering student. "Her notes are by far the best of any professor—they are so clear and precise."

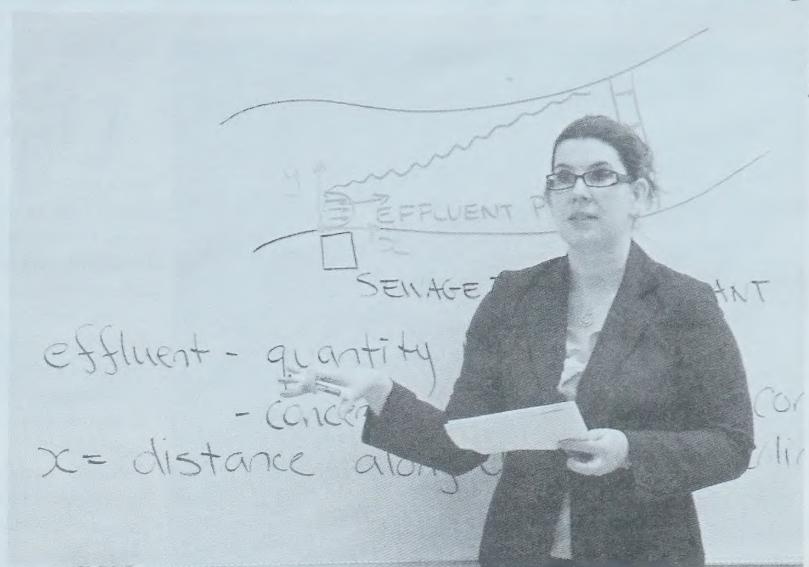
The subject matter could be dry, says student Jordan Betteridge, but Dow Ambtman's notes and teaching style are engaging.

She draws from her own background too, giving students real-life scenarios to work with. A faculty service officer in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, she earned her master's degree in water resources and conducted her PhD work at Edmonton's Cloverbar Wastewater Treatment Plant. So, in her class, Dow Ambtman draws a picture of a river, outlines a plume of effluent released into the river and talks about using math to model the scenario.

"I really enjoy taking things and breaking them down into steps," she explained.

Her reward is simple: "I teach because I love it," she said. "The reward is the students—I find that when you explain something complicated and you see the students get it—you see it in their eyes—it's hard to describe that feeling."

teaching & learning, learning & teaching



Karen Dow Ambtman uses her own background in water resources to explain new concepts to students.

## Opinion: Festival a real eye-opener

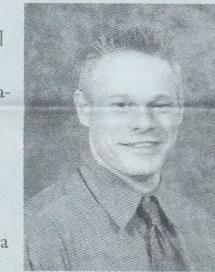
Billy Stream

The Festival of Teaching, held the week of March 7–10, was a wonderful way to connect with colleagues, to learn and grow as an educator, to be inspired and reenergized, and to see that there are many people at the University of Alberta who honor and appreciate teaching and learning.

A new addition to the festival this year was "festival classes," opening class sessions for observation. I had three rewarding and diverse visits to other professors' classes. First, I went to David Barnet's fourth-year drama class, where the students were deeply engaged in rehearsing for a production. As I wrote to David afterwards, it was truly an extraordinary experience to visit his class. I was extremely moved by the opportunity. There were so many aspects of what I observed that were exceptional. The level of community, teamwork, and interdependence was really like nothing I've seen in the context of a course before. David's level of focus and engagement on each piece of work was something to behold. Some parts may have been theatre conventions that I'm unfamiliar with, but the way in which he offered coaching, direction and cues, and how the students rolled with them, was stunning. It was really an honour and a privilege to be welcomed into their learning space.

The next morning I attended the much talked about Science 100, where Glen Lopnow was presenting a chemistry lecture. Granted, while the vast majority of the content loomed way above my understanding there were many aspects of the session that were intriguing. I was able to see iClickers at work with music in the background, as well as a constant series of questions to probe students' understanding and learning, group work, and my favorite moment, when Glen gave the students feedback by banging his head against a metal cabinet.

My third visit was to David Ley's course that focuses on voice for actors. Although the standard direction for the festival was for visitors to simply observe, we were invited to participate in the extensive warm-up. He is clearly a virtuoso and brought an energizing spirit of play to the class. With only 12 students, it was a fairly intimate space, and the three of us visiting, felt fortunate to be welcomed. Much of the session involved one student presenting a monologue with a series of suggestions and coaching from the professor and the other students.



Billy Stream

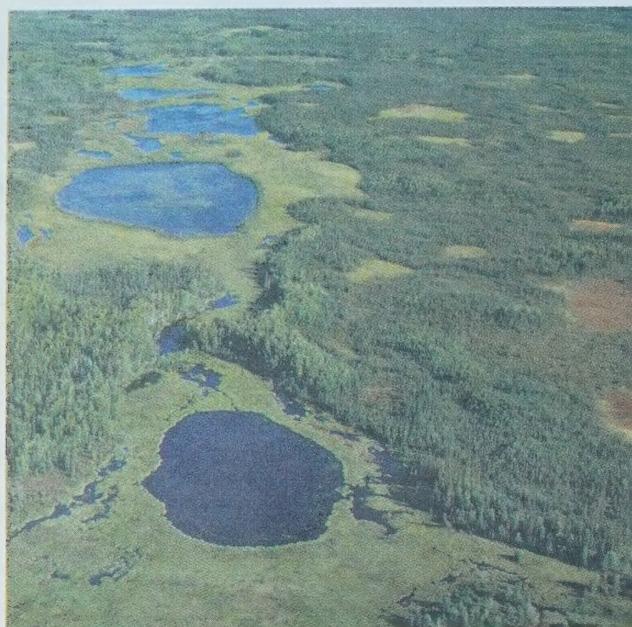
## Festival of Teaching

What was most striking about all three classes was the delightful connection that each professor had created with his students. Although the particular techniques and approaches catalyzed my consideration about new possibilities in my own courses, what was most powerful was the joy I felt witnessing the teaching moments. In retrospect, another key element was the importance of feedback in all of these disparate scenarios. Each instructor guided the students toward higher levels of performance. It was also evident that the engagement was not a linear process between the instructor and the class as a group; the students were actively contributing to each other. These three visits were a big part of fueling my tank for teaching.

It was quite a different experience being on the other side of the observation process. I was somewhat surprised and definitely intrigued watching myself beginning to develop evaluation apprehension about classroom visitors. Fortunately, at least a couple of outstanding teachers had difficulty finding or getting themselves to the Main Gym for my cricket lesson. Truth be told, my trepidation was at least in large part due to the impending visit of Colleen Skidmore, vice-provost (academic). She did attend, so my stress was not for naught. (I do hate to waste good stress.) As is often the case, anticipation was significantly worse than reality. Colleen Skidmore was entirely supportive in her comments and seemed to have enjoyed my session. Two days later, visitors were welcomed to a field hockey session in the Pavilion. I was able to debrief the session with Olenka Bilash, one of the finest teachers on our campus and an education scholar. Again my worries were quickly put to rest, as her analysis and comments were very affirming. I think I'm finally on my way to realizing that the acerbic voice in my head should be ignored and I should pay attention to the kind words of others.

Although the particular techniques and approaches catalyzed my consideration about new possibilities in my own courses, what was most powerful was the joy I felt witnessing the teaching moments.

# Northern peatlands a misunderstood player in climate change



Debate still swirls over the impact of northern peatlands on climate (Supplied photo).

Brian Murphy

**U**niversity of Alberta researchers have determined that while the influence of northern peatlands on the prehistoric record of climate change was overestimated, the vast northern wetlands must be watched closely as the planet grapples with its current global warming trend.

Alberto Reyes and Colin Cooke were PhD students in the U of A's Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences when they began their research into the response of Northern peatlands to climate change.

Northern peatlands, which are a boggy mixture of dead organic material and water, cover more than four million square kilometres. The largest northern peatlands occur in the subarctic regions of Canada and Russia. As peatlands grow they sequester carbon in the form of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. However, as old peat is buried and begins

to decompose, it emits large amounts of methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

Reyes says the research began with the examination of radiocarbon dating of ancient peatlands. "We wanted to find out how peatlands first colonized Northern regions at the end of the last ice age," said Reyes. "This was a period of rapid global warming."

Atmospheric carbon dioxide and methane levels rose dramatically 10,000 years ago at the end of the last ice age. "In the past, scientists had suggested that northern peatlands were an important, if not the principal, source of the dramatic increase in atmospheric methane," said Cooke.

But the U of A team revealed the peatlands did not colonize the North until 500,000 years after the abrupt increases in atmospheric methane. "These results show that other methane sources must have contributed to the warming at the end of the last ice age," said Reyes.

The researchers point to tropical

wetlands as the likely drivers of the initial rises in methane levels during that period. Today, tropical peatlands are the second-largest source of methane emissions to the atmosphere, after human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels and large-scale agriculture.

Reyes and Cooke say their work points to the miscalculation of the role of northern peatlands as an example of the complexities involved in studying huge and dynamic areas of the planet. Unraveling how northern regions will respond to future warming remains a critical research topic for Canada and other northern nations.

"Our future research will focus on northern peatlands as nature's own carbon-capture mechanism," said Reyes. "On the flipside of that role, we'll look at the peatlands as a major emitter of carbon in the form of methane gas."

The research was published online last month in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. ■

## Baikal Archaeological Project to undertake dig on Japanese islands

Jamie Hanlon

**A** longstanding anthropology project at the University of Alberta has recently received an unprecedented third Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada grant to continue studying northern, Holocene-period hunter-gatherers.

This new Major Collaborative Research Initiatives grant, worth \$2.5 million over seven years, will allow

researchers in the Baikal Archaeological Project to undertake a long-term dig in the Japanese Hokkaido island chain, one that will provide them with comparative data of the two areas. And as Andrzej Weber, Baikal's project director, explains, it will also fill in some significant gaps in the history of the Ainu, the indigenous people of this northern Japanese island chain.

"There's not a lot known about the Ainu people prior to the Japanese contact," said Weber. "We want to

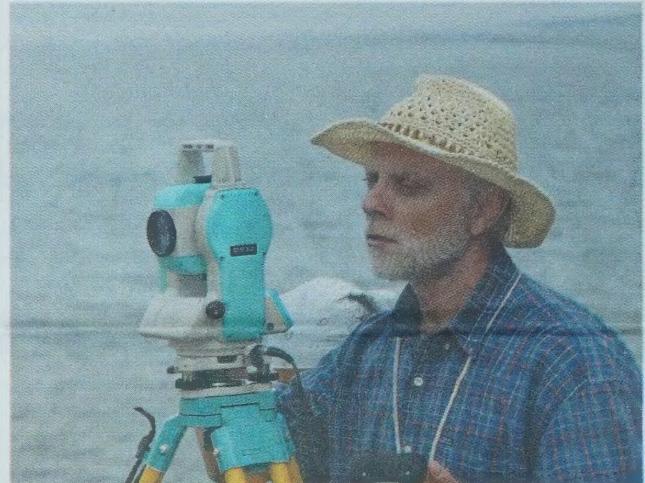
extend the history of the Ainu people as far back as possible and understand the history of the people a lot better. There's great potential for that."

Their focus will be on Rebun Island, in the northwestern part of the prefecture of Hokkaido. There, researchers have already identified two sites that they will use to gather archaeological evidence: one being a burial site from the late Jomon period (from 2,000 to 1,000 BC) and the other a shell midden (area where hunter-gatherers would consume their catches of shellfish) from the middle Jomon (3,000–2,000 BC) that is buried beneath a contemporary Japanese village.

"Both sites have been tested in the past so we know their archaeological potential," said Weber.

The project team will use the same processes and collection methodologies used at the Lake Baikal project site in Siberia—which focuses on studying archaeological, osteological, environmental, genetic and ethnographic data pertaining to the Middle Holocene hunter-gatherers in that region—to gather and interpret the Japanese data. Despite the difference in distance, Weber notes that there are likely common elements in the life, lifestyle and migratory patterns of the peoples of these two regions.

"There's a similarity of environ-



Andrzej Weber is part of a study that will look at ancient civilizations on the Hokkaido islands. ■

ment, of culture, history, of certain interactions with the climate that will make us understand what happened in both places a lot better," he said. "We are looking to see how both of these regions were situated within their own respective larger cultural and natural environments."

Some Baikal researchers will continue to work at the Russian site while their colleagues begin this new project in co-operation with Japanese researchers who will become part of the multi-national Baikal team. Weber

says that the new seven-year funding will likely open up opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students to work alongside the researchers. Such an opportunity will carry on a Baikal fieldwork tradition that has seen its graduates move on to posts around the world.

"Students who get involved will be exposed to a large number of field-leading international scholars," he said. "It will be of huge benefit to them to function for a few years in such an environment."

With their third consecutive SSHRC grant announced and ongoing project support from the U of A, Weber says that his team is poised to carry on research that will bear a "more visible, more profound" academic impact. He admits the plans are ambitious, and with such plans "one needs a little more time to implement all of the ideas." Combined with ongoing, developing relationships with other international archaeological groups doing similar research in the circumpolar north, this alliance will allow Baikal researchers to share the wealth of knowledge they will have collected from these sites, adding their expertise to a broader ranging field of study.

"By putting this comparative aspect of our research together, I think that we can make a lot stronger, meaningful and broader contribution to the field of Holocene hunter-gatherer research," said Weber. ■

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# Tree resin the key evidence of current and historic insect invasions



(Above) A close up of resin clumps, or tubes, on tree trunk. (Bottom left) An ancient boring beetle captured in amber, or fossilized resin.

Brian Murphy

**A** University of Alberta-led research team has discovered that insects that bored into trees as long ago as 90 million years, or as recently as last summer, leave a calling card that is rich with information.

Research led by U of A paleontology graduate student Ryan McKellar has shown that the information is contained in the resin found within trees and on their bark. Resin is produced in large quantities by a tree when it's under attack by insects.

Normally, researchers trying to assess if a tree is infested with boring insects have sometimes had to rip patches of bark off sometimes healthy trees, but McKellar says that looking at the resin in and on a tree offers a far less invasive procedure. "Now forestry workers

looking for the telltale signs of insect borings in tree trunks can just examine the resin that collects in clumps on the tree trunk."

An attack by boring beetles typically affects trees in two ways. The boring action damages the phloem layer just under the bark, which cuts off the passage of nutrients within the trunk. Also, beetles often introduce a fungus that spreads into the woody xylem tissue of the tree and starves the tree of water.

"A side-effect of insect invasion and water stress is a reduction in the tree's ability to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere," said McKellar. "Carbon dioxide is necessary for life-sustaining photosynthesis."

As part of their research, McKellar and the team went looking for subatomic-sized isotopic evidence that indicates water stress in trees as a result of an insect attack. They discovered elevated levels of carbon-13 isotopes in the resin of living trees under insect attack and in the fossilized resin or amber

produced by ancient trees that go back as far as the age of dinosaurs. Further, the group found evidence of boring beetles and the increased presence of carbon-13 within amber fossils dating back in the geological record to 90 million and 17 million years ago. The locations are as geographically removed as present-day New Jersey and the Dominican Republic.

McKellar says the New Jersey and Dominican Republic sites are two of the world's major amber deposits and the discovery will help researchers understand the history of insect infestations in trees.

"These findings suggest that large quantities of amber produced at those locations may have been produced by ancient infestations of boring beetles," said McKellar. "Mountain pine beetle infestations are the modern equivalent of massive prehistoric insect attacks."

McKellar's research was published March 23 in *Proceedings of the Royal Society: Biological Sciences*. ■

## Engineers win for biomedical design



Mechanical engineering (biomedical) students won the innovative design award at the Western Engineering Competition and Canadian Engineering Competition, with their design for a craniostomy and ventriculostomy drill. (Photo: Richard Cairney)

Richard Cairney

**A** group of mechanical engineering (biomedical) students has won a national award for their innovative design of a device that could improve patient care in urgent medical cases.

Kenton Hamaluik, Andrew Kan, Jordan Leung and Allen Feng designed a craniostomy and ventriculostomy drill for Edmonton neurosurgeon Richard Fox, as an assignment for their Mechanical Engineering 460 senior design course. Earlier this year, the students took the design to the Western Engineering Competition and won the innovative design award there. Then, they won the national award for innovative design at the Canadian Engineering Competition in Montreal.

The team's design addresses specific challenges their client thought could be eliminated. Fox explained to the students that surgeons in operating rooms have access to power tools but in emergency rooms and at bedside, doctors use manual drills to perform craniostomy and ventriculostomy procedures. The problem with those drills, Fox told the students, has a lot to do with control of the drill bit.

Hand-cranked drills that resemble eggbeaters and goose-neck drills can present a problem with drilling direction and the bit itself sometimes "walks" across the surface rather than penetrating it. These drills also represent a risk to patients because

there is no depth gauge.

"One of the main problems is that there isn't a safety depth stop to prevent what the surgeons call 'plunging'—uncontrolled drilling through the skull and into the brain," said Leung. "At the bedside and in the ER they are restricted to manual drills, and going to the operating room usually takes a lot of time," added Kan. "This is a time-sensitive issue so you what to get the procedure done as quickly as possible."

The design team solved that problem with a setting feature that only allows the drill bit to penetrate to pre-set depths. And the drill the students designed separates, giving doctors the choice of using a flat or an angled face and the ability to perform two procedures with one tool.

The four are now looking into patenting the device. And two of the team members, Leung and Feng, are now applying to medical schools. "The communication and critical-thinking skills developed throughout my engineering undergraduate experience will help in the field of medicine," said Leung. "The approach to patient care is also becoming more interdisciplinary. Thus, the teamwork skills gained through engineering will be important."

"The one thing that engineering has given me, above all else, is a different perspective," said Feng. "As an engineer, I think that I'll be able to see problems differently and create unique solutions to novel problems." ■

## U of A athletes are the beneficiaries of a grounded manager

Michael Brown

**G**eorge Thomlison says varsity sports at the University of Alberta are as good as you will find anywhere, and he is willing to put his money where his mouth is.

Thomlison, manager of grounds, human resources and procurement with Buildings and Grounds Services, has gone beyond simply attending Golden Bears and Pandas sporting events by creating a pair of endowed scholarships earmarked for varsity athletes.

Originally, Thomlison, who has worked at the U of A since 1987, made a payroll contribution to general bursaries on campus for university athletes. Four years ago, he was selected as part of the ASSUA bargaining team, which comes with a funding allotment paid to the Office of Facilities and Operations to cover any expenses incurred while he was away from work.

"There wasn't a need to bring in a [replacement] for me when I wasn't working, so I asked Don Hickey, vice-president, (facilities and operations) if I could take that money and set up the scholarship for student athletes. He agreed, so I went ahead and did that."

Today, with the help of some donations from Thomlison's friends, the endowment now generates two \$750 scholarships per year.

"As an athlete, I guess I'm partial to athletes," he said. "Some of the best hockey in Edmonton is played in the Claire Drake Arena. I go to a number of hockey games and I'm a regular at the football games, but Pandas rugby is my one true love. I have been affiliated with Pandas rugby since day one."

## staff spotlight

Thomlison's support for athletics doesn't end there. Entrusted with keeping the university grounds pristine, Thomlison needs 20 summer students to help his 12 full-time operators get the job done. In hiring those summer students, it's been his department's priority over last decade to hire university students and, if possible, hire university students who are also university athletes.

"Coaches will put forward the names of students who they know need summer jobs," said Thomlison. "If you're a university athlete, the time you would normally spend working during the year, you're spending either training for, recovering from, or participating in your sport."

"Those individuals don't have those opportunities as much as normal students during the year, so we try to help them that way."

This policy isn't completely altruistic, as Thomlison says his team has had good success hiring student athletes.

"They're used to being part of a team, so we find they work well together," he said.

Being an athlete himself—playing the gamut of sports growing up, and, as a grandfather of four, he still takes to the rugby pitch as a player and a coach—Thomlison says he likes the team effort his group puts forth to make this campus a gem of Edmonton.

"I like the culture; I like the fact that I can come to work and be surrounded by some great people," he said. "I also like the atmosphere on campus. In the summer time, I don't think there is a prettier place to be than right here on campus. We're close to the river valley. It's not like you're working downtown and you're in the middle of a concrete jungle, this is a pretty superb place to work." ■



George Thomlison has created scholarships for two varsity athletes.

Michael Brown

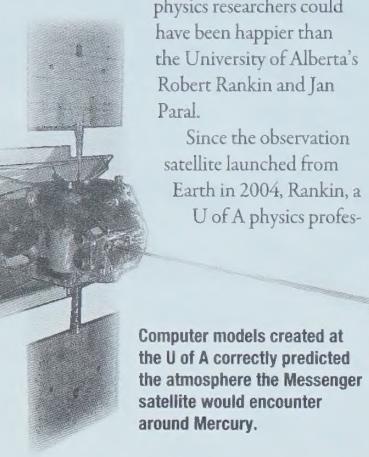
# Researchers flying high about Messenger voyage

Brian Murphy

**W**hen news broke that NASA's Messenger spacecraft finally entered orbit around Mercury, no

physics researchers could have been happier than the University of Alberta's Robert Rankin and Jan Paral.

Since the observation satellite launched from Earth in 2004, Rankin, a U of A physics profes-



Computer models created at the U of A correctly predicted the atmosphere the Messenger satellite would encounter around Mercury.

sor, and Paral, a PhD student, have been involved with the mission. The two spent months building computer models of the atmosphere Messenger would encounter at Mercury.

Rankin says their calculations were proven correct. "It took six years for Messenger to get in the vicinity of Mercury," said Rankin. "On the fly-bys and approach to the planet, instruments detected a heavy presence of sodium gas, just as we had modeled."

Although Rankin and Paral are not official NASA investigators on the Messenger mission, they plan to work closely with the agency's team assigned to analyzing Mercury's atmosphere.

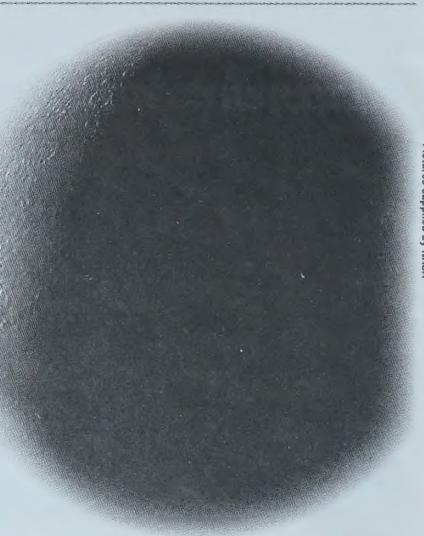
Rankin says Mercury has puzzled researchers since the 1970's, the last time a satellite got close to the planet. In 1974, NASA's Mariner 10 detected a magnetic field around Mercury similar to Earth's. "We can't live without our magnetic field. It blocks lethal space radiation from reaching Earth, and Mercury's magnetic field plays a similar role," said Rankin.

Rankin says that's why it's vital that we understand the chemical composition of other planets.

It took enormous computer power for the U of A team to build atmospheric models for Mercury. Paral travelled to upstate New York and tapped into IBM's now-famous Watson laboratory. The Watson lab and its BlueGene supercomputers were recently featured in a human-versus-machine competition of general knowledge on the popular TV game show, *Jeopardy*. The computer won.

Paral says that computing power helped develop a detailed profile of the gases and chemicals surrounding a planet 154 million kilometres away from the reams of data gathered by earlier observational space satellites.

"I look at Mercury as a laboratory for studying Earth," said Paral. "Mercury is smaller and less complicated, but we can look at all of its components—the magnetic field, its gravity and even its liquid



core—to discover new things about our planet."

Rankin says the next few years will be exciting for him and Paral.

"It's expected that Messenger will be feeding back data until sometime next year," said Rankin. "We hope to be involved all the way along in figuring out Mercury's secrets." ■

## Medicine grads electing for a family practice

Quinn Phillips

**F**or the first time in more than a decade, the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry has matched 40 per cent of its graduating students to family medicine residencies.

"That's a huge turnaround for us," said Rick Spooner, chair of the Department of Family Medicine. "In 2003 I think only about 15 per cent of our graduates went into family medicine."

Of the 144 graduates from this year's medical class, 60 are going into family medicine residency programs. Twenty-nine of them are staying at the University of Alberta. Alberta will likely get to keep a lot of these family doctors in the province, since graduate surveys at the universities of Alberta and Calgary have shown that about 75 per cent stick around.

The faculty is getting close to its goal of seeing 50 per cent of its graduating medical students decide on a career in family medicine, says Spooner.

Jody Ching is one of the graduates who chose family medicine.

"I wasn't sure what I wanted to do when I first entered medical school," said Ching. "I was certain that I didn't want to do family medicine."

Her mind was changed when she took part in the Integrated Community Clerkship, a program implemented by the faculty that places third-year medical students in rural communities for a year. Ching was in Slave Lake for nine months; now she's going into rural family medicine, helping to fill a shortage of rural doctors.

"I quickly learned that rural family doctors are involved in every facet of patient care, and it is an in-depth involvement," said Ching. "They do prenatal and then deliver the babies, then one week later they see those newborns in clinic and watch them grow. They see broken bones and cast them, but also deal with patients who are very sick and need hospital admission."

"Truly, there is never a dull moment, and by the end of the year I was hooked on the variety and versatility."

The Integrated Community Clerkship can take some of the credit

for the increase in numbers. Thirteen of the 16 students who participated in the clerkship from the 2011 graduating class have been matched to family medicine for their residency; eight of those 13 have been matched to rural family medicine.

"I think this is the first time the faculty has been able to show rural clinical faculty members in Alberta that we really do mean business and we're making a difference," said Jill Konkin, associate dean of the Division of Community Engagement. "It is exciting; this is the highest percentage of students from the ICC that have matched to family medicine and rural family medicine in particular."

Spooner says the Department of Family Medicine has worked very hard for these numbers though, and that they did everything they could to make sure family doctors had a presence in the medical school. The chair himself recruited about 18 doctors for the faculty's Gilbert Scholars program, which teaches medical students how to use good communication skills with patients, how to take a medical history and how to perform a general physical examination.

"We said no one is going to pull us out of this but ourselves," said Spooner. "We took a bite out of the undergraduate program with a vengeance. Everywhere that we could, we got family doctors in there and we paid them—that's what our Alternate Relationship Plan allowed us to do."

Alternate Relationship Plans are funding arrangements with the province that allow some departments in the faculty flexibility in how doctors are compensated, in order to meet priority needs.

Christina Beach, another graduate, is going into family medicine in Saskatoon. She thinks that early exposure to family doctors during medical school helped sway a lot of her classmates.

"In our first year of patient-centred care, we had a family doctor early in the semester, and I think that had a big impact, not to mention the mentors who teach discovery learning and the Gilbert's Scholars, who have helped to raise the profile of family medicine," says Beach. ■

## Book explores conflicting fitness messages that underscore women's body stereotypes

Jane Hurley

**F**rom boot camp to step aerobics, yoga to martial arts, women have been pummeled by the fitness industry and messages in the media to exercise in pursuit of the pervasive fit, feminine ideal: to look young, thin and toned.

A new book, *Women and Exercise: The Body, Health and Consumerism* edited by Pirkko Markula, a socio-cultural scholar, sheds light on the complex relationships between women and exercise. It's a timely publication considering Statistics Canada's alarming findings from its recently published *Canadian Health Measures Survey*, showing that women exercise less than men, and only 14 per cent of Canadians accumulate the minimum of 150 minutes per week of moderate to vigorous intensity exercise.



Pirkko Markula

Nevertheless, promoting exercise only as a means to weight loss might not always be healthy, says Markula. "Women are told that they should exercise to look good, feel good and to be healthy," she says, although the women interviewed in the book talked about developing a "fat phobia," where the desire to be thin outweighs all other benefits of exercise.

Markula, a certified Pilates instructor, and whose chapter looks at women's experiences of a Pilates class, says the trend toward "mindfulness" in exercise where activities engage both the mind and the body, such as Pilates and yoga, has taken strong root. While these activities can offer women a holistic, deeply inward-looking activity where they are engaged and "present" in every movement of the body, they can also easily become used as a means for "looking good and feeling good."

The fitness industry is also seen

in the book's research as one of the key components of contributing to women's negative view of exercise and body image. "Within this industry fat is feared, obesity condemned," says Markula. "In such an environment, many women feel inadequate and flawed instead of empowered with body confidence. Exercise, when promoted as a means for achieving healthy looks, can promote ill health."

But, she says, despite this negative potential, not all fitness industry practices are bad. As an instructor, Markula still believes that exercise can be a very good thing and in her practice she emphasizes other exercise goals.

It is important, says Markula, "that exercising women become more aware of the potentially harmful exercise practices. I hope that, as a result, women can become more informed fitness consumers who can expect a greater variety of fitness services to serve diverse needs of diverse groups of women. The fitness industry can, then, evolve into a better informed and healthier practice that can be fun, rewarding and enjoyable." ■

## Student-led Health Week puts focus on movement

Sandra Pysklywyc

**A** healthy movement is afoot on campus for students, by students. The Health and Wellness Movement, a University of Alberta Students' Union group, has proclaimed March 28–April 1 as Health Week on campus.

A few of the highlights include opening ceremonies featuring provincial health minister Gene Zwozdesky, an Iron Chef-style cooking competition at Lister Centre to encourage healthy eating and a video game dance-off competition.

Movement president and founding member Alexei Mokhammad says the group is focused on three key areas physical, mental and nutritional health. "We want to make a difference on campus. It's about us as students trying to affect the behaviour of other students," he says.

Mokhammad says he and fellow members saw the need for the group after watching their peers deal

with stress and make poor nutrition choices.

Founded just over a year ago by a close-knit group of friends in the Faculty of Science, the group now boasts more than 150 members from all over campus. Several of the group's members, including Mokhammad, aspire to careers in the health-care industry and want to make a difference in the lives of their peers.

One of their most recent events included the operation of a fruit stand, where members sold fruit at discounted prices to students to encourage healthy eating.

Mokhammad says the response to this event, and other activities, from students has been fantastic. "We've received really positive feedback and it has resulted in our membership growing. Our group is thrilled to reach students with the message of the importance of healthy living."

More recently the group has taken part in the "Take the Stairs" campaign on campus to encourage

people to get moving.

"University is the place where habits are formed, and we are encouraging people to form good healthy habits, to spread the message about the benefits of a healthier lifestyle and the future impacts of the health-care system," said Mokhammad.

Heidi Bates, registered dietitian and director of the integrated dietetic internship at the U of A, is delighted to see such activities taking place. "The health-care system requires an interdisciplinary approach and it's fantastic to see the students adopt that. Health and well-being is everyone's business; we work in groups and teams and campus and it's incumbent of all of us to reach out help," said Bates.

The group has also teamed up with the Medical Students Association to cross-promote the week's events and is using the opening ceremonies as a joint kick off. The medical students are also running events concurrently during their own Mental Health Awareness week. ■

# Researchers find the magic number for cleanliness

Raquel Maurier

Three is the magic number when it comes to getting rid of bacteria on plastic surfaces, suggests research from a U of A study.

Swiping a plastic surface three times will get rid of most bacteria, regardless of whether you're using a disinfectant wipe or a tissue with saline, a team in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry has discovered. But if time is short, a single swipe with a disinfectant wipe is best.

"It was the mechanical removal, not the actual act of the disinfectant that was key," says Sarah Forgie, a pediatric infectious diseases specialist in the Department of Pediatrics.

Medical student Andrea Berendt, who worked with Forgie on the research, came up with the protocol and conducted all the experiments in a lab over two months. The duo worked with Robert Rennie, a professor in laboratory medicine and pathology; pediatric epidemiologist Donald Spady and technologist LeeAnn Turnbull.

Three types of bacteria—Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), Enterococci (VRE) and Pseudomonas aeruginosa—were each prepared in a mixture and streaked onto sterile plastic Petri dishes, then allowed to dry. Numerous bacteria-contaminated plates were prepared throughout the summer—all in the same manner—so each type of bacteria could be tested with five different types of wipes and then again with varying number of swipes: one swipe, three swipes and five swipes.

Each 10 centimetre-diameter plate was swiped for one second and in a manner covering the entire surface, using a flat baton. The plates were then allowed to dry for 10 minutes. Afterwards, bacteria samples were put onto special lab plates, incubated for at least 24 hours at 35°C and then the bacteria colonies were counted.

Research results demonstrated that bacterial counts dropped significantly the more often a plate was swiped, regardless of the type of wipe used. Swiping the contaminated plates three times decreased the bacterial load by 88 per cent on average, compared to just swiping a plate once. Swiping a plate five times didn't result in an additionally significant decrease in bacteria. And a simple saline wipe appeared to be just as effective as disinfectant wipes when the plates were swiped three times or more. However, if the plate was swiped just once, disinfectant wipes were better at reducing bacteria than simple saline wipes.

The research was supported in part by a grant from the Women and Children's Health Research Institute. ■

# U of A an excellent example of a high-profile partner

Michael Davies-Venn

The director of the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, one of 10 German centres for advanced study established to internationalize the humanities and social sciences in Germany, says there is much his organization can learn from the University of Alberta's concentration on interdisciplinary research. Christof Mauch says the U of A is an excellent example of the kinds of international partners his centre seeks.

"After talking to people from different faculties, I realize that we can learn from this university because the scholarship approach here is more practise oriented and we're more theoretical," says Mauch, who is currently a U of A International Distinguished Visiting Professor. "Both approaches are important in advancing issues on the environment, so a partnership with this university could be very good."

Mauch was particularly impressed with the U of A's ability to bring together researchers from different disciplines. He says approaches that go beyond disciplines are vital for addressing issues on the environment.

"At a history class I attended on environmental consciousness, I was struck by the number of

students taking the course who come from different disciplines," said Mauch. "What we need in the future are people with an openness that crosses disciplines, people who, as undergraduates and graduates, are taught to understand disciplines that are related but not the same."

"That will change our world more than anything else, and that is why universities, such as the U of A, are very important and why an approach that is trans-disciplinary is also important."

Jeremy Caradonna, U of A history researcher who currently teaches the course at which Mauch appeared as a guest, says environmental history plays a crucial role in helping students understand issues such as environmental degradation, changes to ecosystems and pollution.

"The challenges that the world faces today did not come about overnight," Caradonna says. "Environmental history is important in understanding global-climate change, since carbon dioxide levels have been on the rise for about two centuries. Understanding that rise requires an understanding of the history of industrialization and capitalism, as well as cultural and political change."

"We can't transition to a sustainable society until we understand how we got to our current

predicament—and that's the true utility of environmental history."

Mauch, who gave a public lecture open to the public at the law centre, says that, as a discipline, environmental history has become more common as a subject during the last decades, and the result has been new horizons and new lines of inquiry in the humanities.

"Environmental history has both warnings for us and, given its long view of history, it allows well-known events to appear in a new light, showing how much human production and politics affect perceptions, changes and exploitation of the natural world," he said. "This offers chances for history to regenerate and for the establishment of a distinct new interdisciplinary research field." ■

Christof Mauch

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# news [shorts]

folio presents a sample of some of the research stories that recently appeared on ExpressNews, the U of A's online news source, and other campus news sources. To read more, go to [www.expressnews.ualberta.ca](http://www.expressnews.ualberta.ca).

## Japanese students to dress campus with symbol of hope

When the earthquake struck and triggered a tsunami in Japan a little over a week ago, students from that country at the University of Alberta joined the rest of the world to watch as events unfolded.

Amidst their grief, these and other international students at the U of A have been working with the university's Prince Takamado Japan Centre for Teaching and Research and have begun placing Red Cross-marked boxes around campus.

Sawa Senzaki, with the graduate student association, says her group is working with three other student groups, Red Cross Club, East Asian Studies Undergraduate Association and Japanese Conversation Club. Together they will be holding a memorial event on April 11 at the Telus Centre.

For further details on the memorial event and other developments: [www.ptjc.ualberta.ca/en.aspx](http://www.ptjc.ualberta.ca/en.aspx)

## Livestock service lab to provide services to producers

A new service laboratory will be established in the coming months, thanks to \$3.5 million in funding from Western Economic Diversification.

Stephen Moore, CEO of Livestock Gentec, the company for whom the service laboratory will be created, and a professor in the Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutrition Science, said his group realized that in order to get the technologies they're producing out of the lab and into the hands of producers, they needed a better delivery system.

"This funding will (allow us to) do that across Canada," he said, adding that the development of the business operations of the service lab will be done with the assistance of TEC Edmonton.

Livestock Gentec conducts genome analysis and research to help identify with greater precision the genetics that enable breeders to produce more efficient cattle, swine and other domestic livestock species, which in turn will produce higher quality milk and meat products in a way that consumers are looking for.

## Trial studies physical activity impacts colon cancer

Kerry Courneya, a researcher in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, says exercise plays a pivotal role in the prevention, recurrence and survivorship of cancer.

Exercise is just one way of reducing the risk of developing colon cancer, and it may also be an important way to reduce the risk of the cancer returning, he says.

"Researchers have seen that there is a link between exercise and a lower risk of cancer recurrence and longer survival, but they have not yet determined whether this is a direct cause-and-effect relationship," said Courneya, Canada Research Chair in Physical Activity Cancer, whose work has been funded by the Canadian Cancer Society.

To answer this question, Courneya is leading a clinical trial to examine whether colon cancer survivors who increase their physical activity levels have lower rates of cancer recurrence compared to those who do not increase their activity. In addition to the rate of recurrence, the study will also look at other outcomes such as quality of life, anxiety and physical function.

"Even in healthy populations, exercise adherence is a challenge," says Courneya. So, to help in achieving their goals, survivors assigned to increase their activity will participate in supervised exercise programs and behavioural support sessions. "The goal is to get people to increase their overall activity—any type of physical activity—by about two-and-a-half hours of moderate exercise or one-and-a-quarter hours of vigorous activity per week," he says.

## Record-setting captain ends track career with a bronze

Materials engineering student Amanda Schneck is finishing her final year of studies and just wrapped up her last year as captain of the U of A Pandas athletics team, earning a bronze medal in pentathlon at the national championships.

"It was a great way to finish off my CIS career," said Schneck, who broke the Pandas' records in pentathlon six times in the past two years—four times this season alone. "This was probably the best the Pandas and Bears have done in a long time." The Pandas finished fourth at the nationals last weekend, while the Golden Bears finished sixth overall.

Schneck, one of 42 varsity-level athletes in the Faculty of Engineering, was in fourth place before the 800-metre final event at the nationals in Quebec. There was only one way to the podium. "I knew there were some girls behind me who could run some fast times and one girl ahead of me who I knew wouldn't, so I just ran it as hard as I could."

It worked: Schneck turned in a personal best in the race, along with her earlier personal bests in high jump and hurdles.

A fifth-year materials engineering co-op student, Schneck was also recently named the Female Academic All-Canadian Athlete of the Year. The award is given to the top female athlete at the U of A to receive the Academic All-Canadian status, having maintained a grade-point average of 80 per cent or better over the academic year while competing on a university varsity team.

"I was incredibly honoured to receive the award," said Schneck. "The woman who won the same award last year is someone I have always looked up to. To win the same award as an athlete of that calibre is pretty cool." ■

## U of A mourns friend and tireless volunteer

Michael Brown

The University of Alberta community is mourning the passing of a tireless volunteer and supporter whose vigour for education was matched in scale only by her laugh, say those who knew her. Longtime university friend and arts advocate Margaret Andrekson died March 10. She was 83.

Born in Edmonton in 1927, Andrekson, nee Weir, started at the U of A in 1946 and received a bachelor of arts degree in English in 1949. Six months after graduating, she married her university sweetheart Alexander Andrekson, who went on to become a well-known judge in Alberta.

Despite raising five children, Andrekson had an unparalleled dedication to Edmonton, and particularly the U of A, focusing her energy and attention on arts, education, social welfare and health. For more than 50 years, Andrekson gave unselfishly of her time to various boards and organizations, including the Edmonton Symphony Society, both the University of Alberta's senate and board of governors, the U of A Hospital and in varying capacities to the university's Faculty of Arts.

Pat Clements, former dean of the Faculty of Arts from 1989–99, remembers Andrekson's commitment to the faculty in countless roles, from fund development to advisor.

"Margaret was very lively with a wonderful sense of humour and a light touch," remembers Clements. "I think she, along with her husband, believed deeply in education. I believe they had a deep commitment to making things better through education."

In 1984, Andrekson co-founded the Friends of the U of A Museums with Helen Collinson. Andrekson and her husband, until his death in 1997, spent their time raising public awareness of what she considered "Edmonton's best-kept secret—the university's outstanding, and in some cases world-renowned, collections."

The Andreksons made it one of their missions to champion the U of A arts collection, donating more than 100 works of art to the cause, including a Group of Seven oil painting by Lawren Harris entitled,



Margaret Andrekson

Robertson Bay, Greenland."

"Margaret will always be remembered in my heart as a gracious, but always formidable, advocate for the arts and the importance of volunteers in our society," said Janine Andrews, executive director of U of A Museums. "She is one of the university's and Edmonton's true heroes."

An undeniable community builder, Andrekson received many honours, including being named a member of the Order of Canada in 1996 and receiving the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002. She was given an honorary degree from the U of A in 1987 and has a scholarship in art history at the U of A named in her honour. In

2007, Andrekson was inducted into the City of Edmonton Hall of Fame.

While accolades for Andrekson seemed to pour out of every sector of Edmonton life, they all seemed to lead back to the U of A. She once said of the university, "each part of the community—the public of Edmonton and the U of A—should understand and appreciate the other." ■

## Virology institute to celebrate first birthday

Michael Ulrich

Nearly a year after the University of Alberta received the largest cash gift in its history, from the Li Ka Shing (Canada) Foundation—which, along with five other donations, led to the creation of the Li Ka Shing Institute of Virology—the inaugural director of the institute, Lorne Tyrrell, is excited about the progress that is already being made.

"We want to become among the leaders in the world in virology discoveries and cures," said Tyrrell, who spoke about the work of the institute during a lecture at the U of A's Calgary Centre March 8. The lecture audience largely comprised academics, clinicians and others involved in research and treating viral infections in Calgary.

Tyrrell, who will be inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame this spring, shared information about the

work being done at the institute in an effort to treat and cure persistent viral infections, primarily hepatitis B (HBV) and hepatitis C (HCV). In Canada, there are approximately 300,000 people living with HBV and 240,000 with HCV. Worldwide estimates of chronic carriers of HBV are 400 million and of HCV, 170 million.

"I feel we can truly make a difference," said Tyrrell, who foresees that the research being done on hepatitis C worldwide may result in cures of up to 90 per cent of cases within the next five to 10 years.

Leading the way in hepatitis virology research at the institute is Michael Houghton, who co-discovered the hepatitis C virus and was recruited to the U of A as a Canada Excellence Research Chair. Houghton is an internationally acclaimed researcher in his field and is helping to generate key collaborations between the U of A and other institutes

provincially, nationally and internationally. Tyrrell says this work is extremely important to the overall success of the Li Ka Shing Institute of Virology.

"We must seek great collaborators in order to achieve the results we want and to push our research forward," said Tyrrell. "At the same time, we must remember that teaching and research need to be complementary to one another. Some of the ideas for our best research have come from teaching, and graduate students and post-doctoral fellows have their fingerprints on most of our significant discoveries."

The future of the Li Ka Shing Institute of Virology appears promising says Tyrrell and, thanks to additional funding from the Government of Alberta's Community Initiatives Program and the federal government, construction is nearly complete in the remaining space the institute will eventually occupy at the U of A. ■

## classified ads

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# Professor rewrote history of Aboriginal contributions to Canada

Michael Brown

**O**n March 12, the University of Alberta lost a dedicated professor whose work rewrote the history of the Aboriginal contribution to the building of Canada. Canadian history professor Olive Dickason was 91.

Dickason was born in Manitoba in 1920 and graduated high school by correspondence because her parents earned their living in the province's remote northern region. She went on to earn her bachelor of arts degree in philosophy and French from Notre Dame College in 1943 before starting what would become a distinguished career in journalism that lasted for 23 years and culminated in a job at the *Globe and Mail* newspaper.

Acutely aware of the inaccuracy and paucity of information around Canadian Aboriginal history, Dickason left journalism for a master's degree in Canadian history in 1972 and a PhD in 1977, both from the University of Ottawa. While in the midst of her PhD, Dickason joined the U of A's Department of History and Classics in 1975.



Olive Dickason

Her work and lectures illustrated the overlooked Aboriginal contribution to the fortification of the Canadian economy, particularly in the areas of the fur trade, whaling and forestry sectors.

"Most of my adolescent and teen years I spent up north on the trap lines and you learn a view of life that you certainly don't get in the cities and in the schools. When I [was first introduced to] Canadian history, Aboriginal history was just dismissed," she once said of her motivation to pursue a new career setting the Canadian-history record straight.

"This country is deeply founded and deeply linked with Aboriginals. When I realized that the courses being taught didn't refer to this at all, I got very disturbed."

Although her academic career was relatively short, Dickason made the most of it. Her passion for early Canadian history and her pride and interest in her Métis heritage are reflected in subsequent work. She wrote *Indian Arts in Canada*, which won three awards for conception and design. Dickason is also the author of the highly touted *The Myth of the Savage and the Beginnings of French Colonization in the Americas*, numerous scholarly articles and co-author of *The*

*Law of Nations and the New World*.

As an author, Olive has been instrumental in researching and documenting the importance of Aboriginal participation at every stage of Canadian history. In her seminal *Canada's First Nations: A History of Founding Peoples From Earliest Times*, published in 1992, Dickason tried, she says, to "reverse the perspective of the standard history." Her textbook, *A Concise History of Canada's First Nations*, became an essential contribution to history courses at the high-school level. Dickason and her books figure importantly in Quebec's Canadian Museum of Civilization's display honouring the achievements of prominent First Nations individuals in Canada.

Among her many accolades, Dickason, who was made a professor emerita when she retired from the U of A in 1992, was awarded the Order of Canada in 1996 and received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation in 1997.

"She was highly regarded as a scholar, and treasured as a human being," said Andie Palmer, associate chair in the Department of Anthropology and long-time friend of Dickason. "She had the care for [the U of A], and took a continued and supportive interest in her colleagues and students." ■

# talks & events

Talks & Events listings do not accept submissions via fax, mail, e-mail or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in folio and on ExpressNews at: [www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/events/submit.cfm](http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/events/submit.cfm). A more comprehensive list of events is available online at [www.events.ualberta.ca](http://www.events.ualberta.ca). Deadline: noon one week prior to publication. Entries will be edited for style and length.

## Until March 28

**Climate Trail – The Pathfinder Towards Global Solutions Display.** This exhibit explains the causes of global warming, as well as its impacts on our planet. It describes how we can reduce carbon dioxide emissions and how Switzerland is addressing climate change. Enterprise Square.

## March 28–April 1

**Health Week.** A collaborative effort of a dozen university groups to put together 30-plus events focusing on physical, nutritional and mental health. Look for events across the university. Gene Zwozdesky, minister of health, will open the week on March 28 at noon in the 1080 Katz Group Centre for Pharmacy and Health Research.

## Until June 24

**The Last Best West: Glimpses of the Prairie Provinces from the Golden Age of Postcards.** This exhibition of postcards is from the settlement and urbanization of the Canadian Northwest. The Peel's Prairie Provinces postcard collection contains thousands of fascinating and informative images, including personalized views of first houses, farms and family groups, as well as important events, disasters and buildings. Admission is free. Exhibition catalogues are available for \$25. Noon–4:30 p.m. Lower level, South Rutherford Library.

## Until March 30

**Sculpture from the Human Body.** Works selected from second- to fourth-year sculpture classes offered by

the Department of Art and Design. South foyer, Rutherford Library.

## March 26

**Out of Sight: A Sensory Experience.** An evening of fine dining to raise awareness and funds for research to detect, diagnose and treat inherited forms of vision loss. Complimentary champagne and hors d'oeuvres to enjoy while you browse the silent auction tables, the scotch-tasting booth and the black box raffles, live auction and entertainment. Tickets \$200. 5:30 p.m. Crowne Plaza. For more information go to [www.ophthalm.med.ualberta.ca/Library/Documents/poster-Oct-2010-v3.pdf](http://www.ophthalm.med.ualberta.ca/Library/Documents/poster-Oct-2010-v3.pdf)

**Writing Home and Indigenous Thought.** Deanna Reder, co-editor of Troubling, and Warren Cariou, author and film documentarist of Land of Oil and Water and Aboriginal literature lecturer at the University of Manitoba, will be together for an evening of two talks and a conversation that challenges western assumptions of Native representation concerning urbanity and human waste. 6:30–8:30 p.m. 1-5 Alberta School of Business.

## March 28

**The third annual Olive Yonge Teaching and Learning Scholarship Day** is in honour of an exceptional teacher and scholar at the Faculty of Nursing and is in recognition of Yonge's outstanding contribution to the discipline and profession of nursing. 8 a.m.–4 p.m. Lister Centre. [www.nursing.ualberta.ca/en/TeachingLearning/OliveYongeDay.aspx](http://www.nursing.ualberta.ca/en/TeachingLearning/OliveYongeDay.aspx)

**Science FUNday.** Science Fundamentals host this free exhibition geared towards increasing science awareness in elementary-school age children. There will be science demonstrations and interactive activities, along with guest presenters. This year's theme is Planet FUNday: A Space Odyssey. All ages are

## The Department of Cell Biology

**Guest Speaker.** Susan Harkema, professor of neurological surgery at the University of Louisville, KY, will be on hand to give a talk entitled, "Strategies for Neuromuscular Recovery after Spinal Cord Injury." 9:30–10:30 a.m. 510 Medical Sciences.

## March 31

**CIUS Seminar Series.** John Pihach will talk on Austrian Records for Researching Galician Family History. Records created during the time when Galicia was part of the Austrian empire allow people to determine what properties their ancestors had, what crops they grew, the income they derived from those crops, what obligations to the nobles they had during the time of serfdom, what taxes they paid. 3 p.m. 2-06 Pembina Hall.

**Research Forum, New Media Artists: Virtual Lessons in Reality.** Eclipsing initial debates pertaining to the moral import or pejorative rejection of gaming as a low cultural medium, critical game studies has begun to develop a varied approach to investigating the cultural significance of video games and gaming. 3:30–4:30 p.m. 128 Education Centre.

## April 2

**Science FUNday.** Science Fundamentals host this free exhibition geared towards increasing science awareness in elementary-school age children. There will be science demonstrations and interactive activities, along with guest presenters. This year's theme is Planet FUNday: A Space Odyssey. All ages are

welcome. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Dinwoodie Lounge Students' Union Building.

## University of Alberta Mixed Chorus 67th Annual Spring Concert.

Experience the beauty of choral sound while celebrating Robert de Frece's 25th year of conducting. To mark the occasion, "Three Canadian Folksongs," a commissioned work by Canadian composer Mark Sirett, will be premiered. Also featured are the Faculty of Education Handbell Ringers, one of Canada's most accomplished handbell groups. 8–10 p.m.

## April 4

**Meosophilic Thermotogales Bacteria in the Wild and in Culture.** Camilla Nesbo, professor in the Department of Biology at the University of Oslo, is presenting this seminar as part of her application for adjunct status in the Department of Biological Sciences. 11 a.m.–noon. M137 Biological Sciences.

**Winspear 5.** University Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m., Arts and Convocation Hall.

## April 5

**Art Therapy Information Session.** Come learn about the art therapy profession, what it is, what training you need, and what work opportunities are available to professional art therapists. RSVP at [meers@ualberta.ca](mailto:meers@ualberta.ca) or call 780-439-7311 1–3 p.m. St. Stephen's College.

## April 7

**Annual Public Lecture in Philosophy.** Distinguished scholar Allen Carlson critically analyzes different positions of how we should aesthetically appreciate nature—an important question since our appreciation of natural environments greatly influences how we treat such environments. 3:30 p.m. B-95 Tory Building.

**Educated Wallet—You Can't Take it With You.** No matter our stage in life, we all have questions about money and want to make smart choices. We've put together a series designed to help alumni and students become more educated about money matters. Financial expert Jim Yih and Avidéh Musgrave offer expertise on wills, personal directives, guardianship and estate planning and taxes. 6:30–9:30 p.m. TELUS Centre 236. \$25 per person (incl. a light dinner) To register go to [www.ualberta.ca/alumni/educatedwallet](http://www.ualberta.ca/alumni/educatedwallet)

## April 8

**History & Classics LH Thomas Distinguished Lecture Series: "The Letter of Philip to the Athenians."** Jeremy Trevert, Department of History at York University, will give this talk as part of the Lewis H. Thomas Distinguished Lecture Series. 4–5:30 p.m. 1-6 Alberta School of Business.

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**Sinusitis & Rhinitis/Allergies**

### Patient testimonials:

- "Nearly half of our staff has been to your clinic." - Staff member at the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry
- "You helped me lose 35 pounds and my blood pressure has dropped significantly. My neck and shoulder pain, which I've had for more than 20 years, is also gone." - Senior staff member at the U of A
- "In two months of treatment, Dr. He has helped alleviate pain from sciatica, disc bulges and inoperable spinal cysts." - Senior staff member at the U of A

# laurels

U of A Industrial Design Alum Todd Cherniawsky was part of Robert Stromberg and Karen O'Hara-led team that won an art direction Oscar for their work in the movie *Alice in Wonderland* at the 2011 Academy Awards. Cherniawsky was part of the team that won in the category of art direction at the 2010 Academy Awards for the movie *Avatar*.

Charles (Tom) Peacocke, former head of the U of A's department of drama, and a longtime actor and director, has been nominated for a 2011 Mayor's Celebration of Arts award.

Doug Hardy, coach of the Augustana Vikings curling team, has been named Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference Curling Coach of the year.

Sangita Sharma, professor in the Department of Medicine has been named Centennial Professor for a period of seven years, effective July 1. The title of Centennial Professor is a university recognition of Sharma's outstanding record of scholarly research, teaching and service and is considered one of the highest honours the university can bestow on a person.



## Celebrate!

In many ways, this year's Celebration of Research and Innovation was an event with something for everyone. Medical, natural and social scientists; veteran, mid-career and young researchers; academic and support staff—all were represented at this year's event in the Myer Horowitz Theatre March 22.

Started in 2009, the celebration filled a perceived gap in recognition of excellence in research on campus. Lorne Babiuk, vice-president (research), says that the decision to hold an event to provide recognition for contributions made to the institution by researchers was a collective idea.

"People said, 'it's about time we started to celebrate and recognize our colleagues for all their hard work and demonstrate that we have individuals at this university who are recognized nationally and internationally. Often people did not know what their colleagues were doing, so it is important to demonstrate and celebrate those achievements."

This year's Celebration of Research and Innovation brought out some familiar faces, including President Indira Samarasekera (centre), board of governors member Robert Teskey (top right), Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach (bottom centre) and associate dean of science (diversity) Margaret-Ann Armour (bottom left).